

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings substitute formal drawings of Figures 2, 3, 6 and 7 for the informal drawings currently on file.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 9, 12-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Prociw et al. (US 6,289,677).

Prociw et al. in US 6,289,677 do not teach a common annular outlet passage having a curved annular transitional surface extending smoothly to an annular surface substantially **perpendicular** relative to a central axis of the fuel nozzle head for directing a first portion of a mixing air flow at a fuel flow exiting the fuel discharging orifice. Nevertheless, Claim 1 has been amended in order to further clearly distinguish the claimed invention over the cited prior art. The amendment to claim 1 is fully supported in paragraph [0025] of the disclosure of this application. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 has been traversed.

Claims 2 and 9 depend directly from claim 1 and stand together with claim 1 for patentability. Therefore, claims 2 and 9 are allowable.

In US 6,289,677 Prociw et al. do not teach a gas turbine fuel nozzle head having a common annular outlet passage including a substantially radial and annular surface relative to a central axis of the fuel nozzle head for directing a first portion of a mixing airflow substantially **perpendicularly towards** a fuel flow exiting the fuel discharging orifice. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of claim 12 has been traversed.

Claims 13-15, 19 and 20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12 and stand together with claim 12 for patentability. Therefore, claims 13-15, 19 and 20 are allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Prociw et al. (US 6,289,676).

For the reasons set forth in the above-discussion of the Examiner's rejection based on US 6,289,677, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 12 based on US 6,289,676 is traversed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowability statement regarding the subject matter of claims 3-8, 10, 11 and 16-18. Due to the allowability of

amended claim 1 and claim 12 from which those claims depend directly or indirectly, claims 3-8, 10, 11 and 16-18 are allowable without the need to be rewritten in independent form.


DRAWINGS

The Examiner has accepted the drawings filed on April 2, 2004 (the date was erroneously stated as April 2, 2006) in this Office Action. However, due to the hand drawn portions and numerals included in Figures 2, 3, 6 and 7, Applicant wishes to replace those figures with the appended replacement sheets of Figures 2, 3, 6 and 7 which are simply formalization of those drawings presently on file and include no changes.

No new matter has been added.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for immediate allowance. Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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